

In The Claims:

Amend claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 as shown in the following clean version:

- 1 1. (amended) A card issuer, which sequentially issues stacked
2 cards having a first card portion and a second card portion,
3 comprising:
 - 4 a first stack portion in which the number of stacked cards
5 to be issued is regulated at a predetermined value or less;
 - 6 a second stack portion which stacks cards for replacing
7 picked-out cards therewith to the first stack portion in the
8 case where the cards stacked in the first stack portion are
9 picked out;
 - 10 a card support internal to the second stack portion, the
11 card support for positioning cards so that a weight of cards
12 stacked in the second stack portion is applied to a first card
13 portion of the cards in the first stack portion; and
 - 14 pick-out means for picking out a card stacked in the first
15 stack portion in a direction such that the weight of cards
16 stacked in the second stack portion is applied only to the first
17 card portion of the cards in the first stack portion.
- 1 3. (amended) The card issuer according to claim 1, wherein the
2 card issuer is an apparatus, which stacks and issues cards having
3 embosses formed thereon on the second card portion .

1 5. (amended) The card issuer according to claim 2, wherein a
2 weighted object for applying a predetermined load in a card stack
3 direction is provided.

1 6. (amended) A card processor comprising:

2 a card stacker for stacking cards having embossed areas in a
3 vertical direction;

4 control means for controlling a load applied to the embossed
5 area of a card located at the lowermost portion within a
6 predetermined range while the card is in the card stacker; and

7 pick-out means for picking out the card located at the
8 lowermost portion among cards stacked in the card stacker.